

**REMARKS****I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. The Office Action dated February 1, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully considered. With this Amendment, claims 12 and 23 are canceled. Applicant amends claims 13, 16, 17, 22, 24, 27, 28, and 33 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and to correct minor informalities. Claims 13-22 and 24-33 are currently pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn.

**II. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicant is resubmitting the references cited on the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 19, 2007, which were not considered by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the references were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement on December 19, 2007. First, it is the policy of the Applicant to submit all foreign patents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)2. In addition, in the first paragraph on page 2 of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 19, 2007, Applicant states, "Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)." Applicant is herewith providing courtesy copies of references **BA** and **BB** cited on PTO/SB/08A of December 19, 2007.

**III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

**A. CLAIMS 12 AND 23**

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 22, 23, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,713,145 to Ruvang. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 12 and 23. Applicant respectfully requests this rejection to be withdrawn in light of the amendments to the claims.

**B. CLAIM 22**

Applicant amends claim 22 to depend from independent claim 13. Claim 13 is submitted to be allowable for the reasons explained in section IV of this Amendment. Applicant submits that claim 22 is patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests this rejection to be withdrawn in light of the amendments to the claims.

**C. CLAIM 33**

Claim 33 is amended to depend from independent claim 24. Claim 24 is submitted to be allowable for the following reasons explained in section IV of this Amendment. Applicant submits that claim 33 is patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 24. Applicant respectfully requests this rejection to be withdrawn in light of the amendments to the claims.

**IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 13-21 and 24-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this Amendment, Applicant rewrote claims 13-21 and 24-32 in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

The substance of claim 12 is incorporated into independent claims 13 and 16. Claims 14, 15, and 17-21 depend from independent claim 13.

The substance of claim 23 is incorporated into independent claims 24 and 27. Claims 25, 26, and 28-33 depend from independent claim 24.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13-22 and 24-33 are patentable and in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the objection to claims 13-22 and 24-33 be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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